

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 15, and 16 are independent. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended the specification to recite the priority information of U.S. Application No. 09/333,266. Entry of the above amendment is earnestly solicited.

Applicant submits concurrently herewith a Request for Personal Interview. It is respectfully requested that, prior to acting on the present application, the Examiner contact Applicant's representative, Catherine M. Voisinet (Reg. No. 52,327) at (703) 208-4005 to schedule an interview.

Conclusion

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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